GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2367
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
EASTERN COALFIELDS LTD.
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 95 projects under the ECL, 40 projects have been closed down mid-way;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered by the ECL as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have made any study in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to ECL to boost the production duringthe last three years and current year; and

(g) the funds utilised by ECL during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUST
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Out of 98 projects (costing Rs.2 crores and above) sanctioned in Eastern Coalfields Limited(ECL) so far, 41 projects have been withdrawn / shelved due to following reasons:-

i) Problems of land acquisiton;
ii) Fund constraints;
iii) Lack of demand
iv) Adverse geo-mining conditions
v) Approval of Director General Mines Safety not granted.

(c): Total expenditure incurred in these projects is Rs.71.76 crores. Out of this, an amount of Rs.34.98 crores spent for procuring plant & machinery items is being gainfully utilised in existing mines. Rs.13.13 crores spent for prospecting and boring is being used for existing mines and will be used for future projects. Rs.5.88 crores spent for land acquisition and infrastructure developments like roads, water supply etc. are being used for existing mines. Remaining balance expenditure made for mine development is in use in existing mines and will also be used for future mines.

(d) & (e): A Group of Ministers was constituted in February, 1994 to suggest specific measures to cut delays in implementation of projects. The main recommendations of Group of Ministers related to identification of projects for shelving or transferring to joint / private sector and their reprioritisation in view of resource constraints. These recommendations are being implemented by the coal companies.

(f): No budgetary support has been provided by the Union Government to ECL during last three years and current year.

(g): Does not arise in view of para (f) above.